

**John Parke Custis to Martha C. Washington, July 5, 1773, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM JOHN PARKE CUSTIS TO MRS. WASHINGTON.**

KINGS-COLLEGE July 5th

MY DEAR MAMMA,

I have at length the Pleasure of informing you that I am settled in every respect according to my Satisfaction. There has Nothing been omitted by the Professors, which could be in any means condusive to my Happiness, & contentment; during my residence at this place, and I beleive I may say without vanity that I am Look'd upon in a particular Light by them all, there is as much Distinction made between me, & the other Students as can be expected. I dine with them (A liberty that is not allow'd any but myself) associate & partake of all their recreations, & their Attention to my Education keeps pace with their other good offices, and from their Words, as well as, Actions, I have reason to form the most pleaseing Hope of Pleasure, & Satisfaction entertainment in the pursuit of my Studies. It does not become me to Speak much in praise of my own attendance but I assure you that I have done as much or more in 2 months than in the eight Months before, and I flatter myself you will never hear any thing but what is agreable from Doctor Cooper or any other of the Professors.

It is now time to give you a short plan of my apartments, & of my way of living. I have a large parlour with two Studys or closets, each large enough to contain a bed, trunk, & couple of chairs, one I sleep in, & the other Joe calls his, my chamber & parlour are

## Library of Congress

paper'd, with a cheap tho very pretty Paper, the other is painted; my furniture consists of six chairs 2 Tables, with a few paultry Pictures; I have an excellent Bed, & in short every thing very convenient & clever. I generally get up about Six or a Little after, dress myself & go to chappel, by the time that Prayers are over, Joe has me a little Breakfast, to which I sit down very contentedly, & after eating heartily, I thank God, & go to my Studys, with which I am employ'd till twelve than I take a walk & return about one dine with the Professors, & after dinner study till Six at which time, the Bell always rings for Prayers they being over College is broak up, & then we take what Amusement we please.

Things My dear Mother were going on in this agreable Manner, till last Thursday, the day I receiv'd Pappa's melancholy Letter, giveing an account of my dear & only Sister's Death. I myself met the Post, & brought the sad Epistle to Doctor Cooper; who I beg'd to open his Letter immediately, the Direction I did not know, but the Seal I knew too well to be deceiv'd, my confusion & uneasiness on this occasion is better convey'd than expesst. Her case is more to be envied than pitied, for if we mortals can distinguish between those who are deserveing of Grace & who are not, I am confident she enjoys that Bliss prepar'd only for the Good & virtuous. let these considerations, My dear Mother have their due weight with you, & comfort yourself with refecting that she now enjoys in substance what we in this world enjoy in imagination, & that there is no real Happiness on this side of the Grave. I must allow that to sustain a Shock of this kind requires more Philosophy than we in general are possest off, my Nature could not bear the Shock, but sunk under the load of oppression, and hinderd me from administring any consolation to my dear & nearest relation; this Letter is the first thing I have done since I receiv'd the melancholy News, & could I think my Presence wou'd be condusive to the Restoration of your Tranquillity neither the distance nor the Fatigue of traveling cou'd detain me a moment here. I have put myself & Joe into deep Mourning & shall do every Honour in my power to the Memory of a deceas'd & well belov'd Sister, I will no longer detain you on a subject which is painful to us both, but conclude with beging you to remember you are a Christian & that we ought to

## Library of Congress

submit with Patience to the divine Will, &, that to render you happy shall be the constant care

of your affectionate & dutiful Son JOHN PARKE CUSTIS.

NEW YORK July 5th 1773.